

EASTER SUNDAY

SEEK THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS

April 17, 2022

Alleluia! The Lord is risen, victory is won. Satan is conquered and man is set free. Heaven's gate is opened. The heavens and the earth are glad. Salvation is won for all peoples and the wall of separation is torn down.

If you have any doubt, ask Mary Magdalene, and listen to the testimony of St. Peter read a few moments ago: "We are witnesses to all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree; but God raised Him on the third day and made Him manifest... To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sin through His name".

When we were baptized, we shared in His death and have a share in His resurrection also. "By our baptism into His death we were buried with Him, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glorious power, we too should begin living a new life" (Rom.6:4).

Have we been raised with Christ? If so, then what next? St. Paul tells us to seek things that are above. "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col.3:1-4). Nature tells us about the superiority of things high above the earth. Even the food we eat has lessons to teach us about this.

To seek things that are above is to do away with old self and put on a new life. We are "to celebrate the festival (Resurrection), not with the old leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1cor.5:8). What has been my old way of life? Am I worried about it or not? Do I want to live a new life in Christ? How can I keep the white cloth clean? How can I make Christ's suffering, death and resurrection beneficial, profitable and useful?

Jesus wants me to do all things in a new way. I am to work with love and dedication. All things are to be done with sincerity and truth. St. Paul gives some other ways to leave behind the old self: "From now on there must be no more lies; speak the truth. Even if you are angry, do not sin. No more stealing; do honest an job to get something to share with those in need; no

foul words. Any bitterness or bad temper or anger or shouting or abuse must be far removed from you. Be generous to one another, sympathetic, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ. No more impurity of any form, or greed" (Eph.4:25-5:2).

From now on, my attention should be more on how to please God and do His will than doing my own will. I should continue to discipline my senses and not to go back to make up for the lost time during lent. I am to continue to pray more and read more spiritual books. These are some of the things to do or not to do in order to seek things that are above, where Christ is, if only I want to see His face and be with Him one day. Doing what pleases God and avoiding evil is a way of showing my appreciation to Christ for what He has done for me. It is to say thank you for dying to save me. Then also, His suffering has not been in vain.